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MORRISON
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WORLD WAR III
PART 1 OF 5
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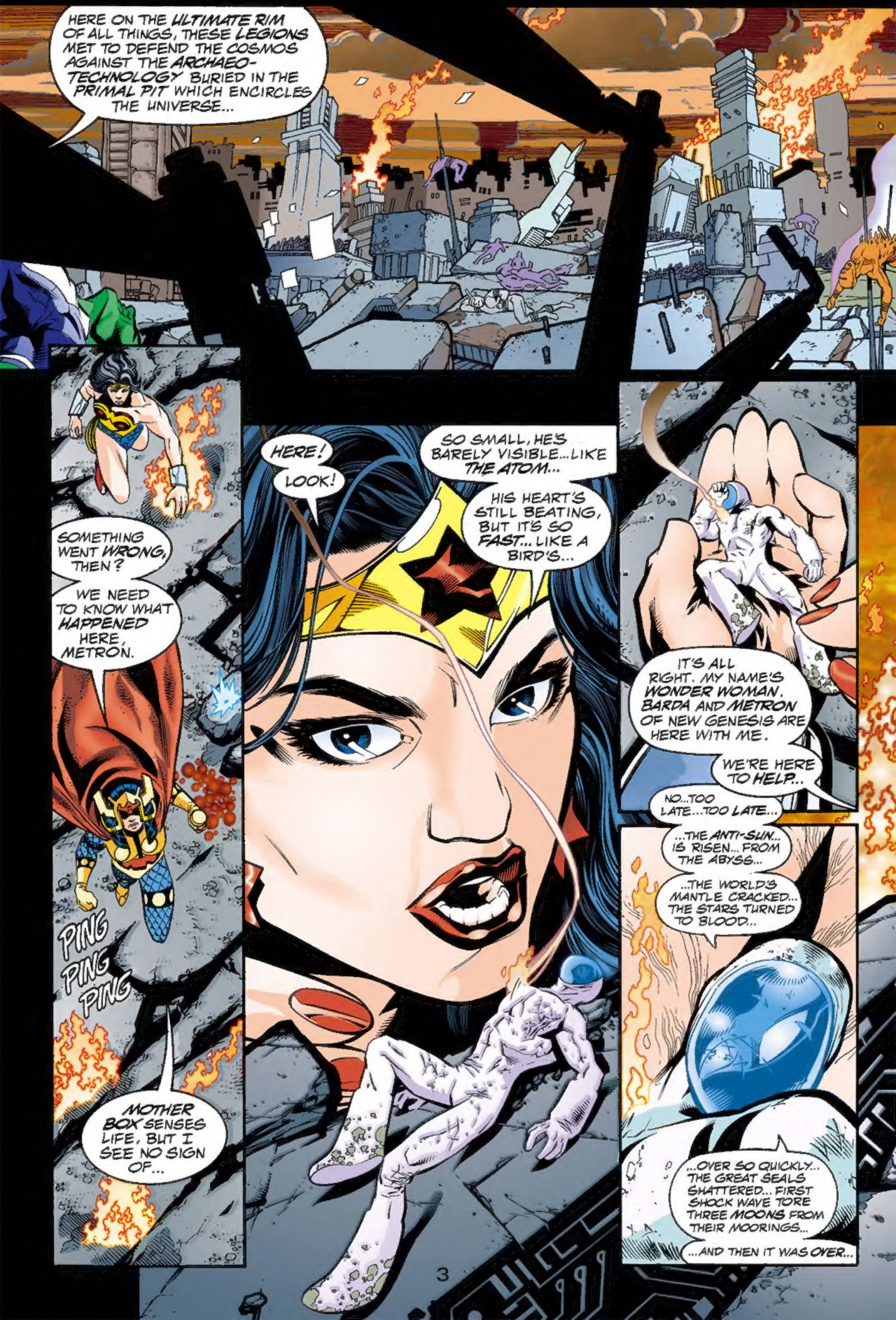
PROLOGUE:

GREAT HERA! WHAT TERRIBLE GRAVEYARD IS THIS, METRON? WHERE ARE WE?
THE MOBIUS CHAIR HAS DELIVERED US TO THE LIMITS OF SPACE AND TIME.
AND THIS WAS WONDERWORLD.
HOME OF THE GREATEST SUPER-CHAMPIONS OF YOUR UNIVERSE: THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST WONDROUS OF THEIR KIND.
LET US DESCEND TO INVESTIGATE THEIR RUIN.
OMMMMMMMMMM
ALL DEAD!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR ARMY OF SUPERMEN, METRON. WE STAND ALONE...
WONDERWORLD?
AQUAMAN MENTIONED A WONDERWORLD...

CONVERSION BY WILDSTORM


HERE ON THE ULTIMATE RIM OF ALL THINGS, THESE LEGIONS MET TO DEFEND THE COSMOS AGAINST THE ARCHAEO-TECHNOLOGY BURIED IN THE PRIMAL PIT WHICH ENCIRCLES THE UNIVERSE...
SOMETHING WENT WRONG, THEN?
WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE, METRON.
PING PING PING
MOTHER BOX SENSES LIFE. BUT I SEE NO SIGN OF...
HERE! LOOK!
SO SMALL, HE'S BARELY VISIBLE...LIKE THE ATOM...
HIS HEART'S STILL BEATING, BUT IT'S SO FAST... LIKE A BIRD'S...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. MY NAME'S WONDER WOMAN. BARDA AND METRON OF NEW GENESIS ARE HERE WITH ME.
WE'RE HERE TO HELP...
NO...TOO LATE...TOO LATE...
...THE ANTI-SUN... IS RISEN... FROM THE ABYSS...
...THE WORLD'S MANTLE CRACKED... THE STARS TURNED TO BLOOD...
...OVER SO QUICKLY... THE GREAT SEALS SHATTERED... FIRST SHOCK WAVE TORE THREE MOONS FROM THEIR MOORINGS...
...AND THEN IT WAS OVER...

"...ADAM ONE TRIED TO... RALLY US AGAINST THE POWER OF THE ANTI-SUN BUT... IT WAS SO MUCH STRONGER THAN WE'D IMAGINED...
"ALL OUR LIVES... DEDICATED TO THIS MOMENT... PLEDGED TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM ANNIHILATION... AND...
"...AND...WE FAILED. TURNED ON ONE ANOTHER AND MADE WAR... FORGIVE US...
"...IT'S FREE...THE ANTI-SUN, DRAGGING ITS BROKEN CHAINS ACROSS THE STARS... NOTHING CAN... NOTHING...
"..."
HE'S DEAD.
THIS WAS ONCE A HEAVEN.
OUR FEARS ARE CONFIRMED: IF WONDERWORLD HAS FALLEN, THERE IS NO ONE TO STAND AGAINST THE WARBRINGER.
YOU'RE WRONG, METRON.

...BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THIS UNIVERSE, THERE WAS URGRUND-- THE WORLD OF THE OLD GODS.

WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT OUR PREDECESSORS, BUT WE DO KNOW THIS: THEY MANUFACTURED WEAPONS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION AND TORE INFINITY APART.

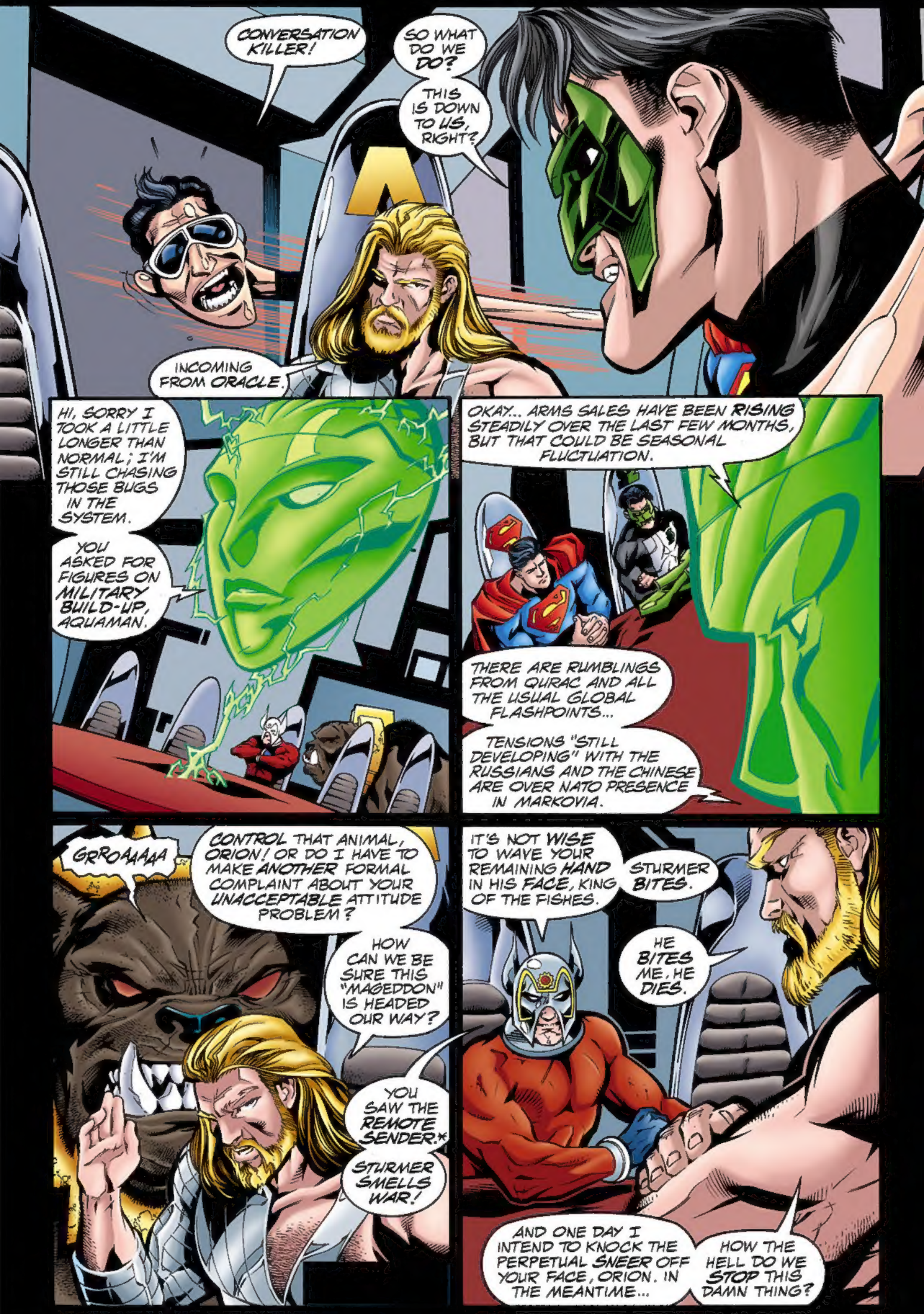
UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF THOSE WEAPONS SURVIVED, IMPRISONED FOR 15 BILLION YEARS IN A GRAVITY SINK ON THE OUTER CURVE OF SPACETIME.

THE ANTI-SUN, THE PRIMORDIAL ANNIHILATOR: IN THE LANGUAGE OF NEW GENESIS, ITS NAME IS MAGEDDON.

AND... IT JUST BROKE FREE.

PART ONE
WORLD WAR THREE

GRANT MORRISON-WRITER
HOWARD PORTER-PENCILLER
JOHN DELL-INKER
KEN LOPEZ-LETTERER
PAT GARRAHY-COLORIST
HEROIC AGE-SEPARATOR
TONY BEDARD-ASSOC. EDITOR
DAN RASPLER-EDITOR


CONVERSATION KILLER!
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
THIS IS DOWN TO US, RIGHT?
INCOMING FROM ORACLE.
HI, SORRY I TOOK A LITTLE LONGER THAN NORMAL; I'M STILL CHASING THOSE BUGS IN THE SYSTEM.
YOU ASKED FOR FIGURES ON MILITARY BUILD-UP, AQUAMAN.
OKAY.. ARMS SALES HAVE BEEN RISING STEADILY OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT THAT COULD BE SEASONAL FLUCTUATION.
THERE ARE RUMBLINGS FROM QURAC AND ALL THE USUAL GLOBAL FLASHPOINTS...
TENSIONS "STILL DEVELOPING" WITH THE RUSSIANS AND THE CHINESE ARE OVER NATO PRESENCE IN MARKOVIA.
GRROAAAA
CONTROL THAT ANIMAL, ORION! OR DO I HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER FORMAL COMPLAINT ABOUT YOUR UNACCEPTABLE ATTITUDE PROBLEM?
HOW CAN WE BE SURE THIS "MAGEDDON" IS HEADED OUR WAY?
YOU SAW THE REMOTE SENDER.*
STURMER SMELLS WAR!
IT'S NOT WISE TO WAVE YOUR REMAINING HAND IN HIS FACE, KING OF THE FISHES.
STURMER BITES.
HE BITES ME, HE DIES.
AND ONE DAY I INTEND TO KNOCK THE PERPETUAL SNEER OFF YOUR FACE, ORION. IN THE MEANTIME...
HOW THE HELL DO WE STOP THIS DAMN THING?

"YOU FAIL TO UNDERSTAND... METRON'S RESEARCHES CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF THESE WEAPONS WAS HURLED ACROSS THE SHINING BRIDGE TO OBLITERATE JOYOUS HOME,' THE STAR-CITY OF THE OLD GODS.

" ONCE ACTIVATED, IT CANNOT BE STOPPED."

" IT BRINGS WAR AND RUIN, ITS CREEPING TAINT FIRST SURFACES IN THOSE WITH A PREDISPOSITION TOWARDS EVIL.

"THEN, AS IT COMES CLOSER, ALL THE SOLDIERS OF CHAOS BESET THE FORCES OF ORDER.

" FINALLY THE MAGEDDON WARHEAD MANIFESTS IN THE HEAVENS. BROTHER MURDERS BROTHER... THE STARS DIE..."

AND AT THE END, THE UNIVERSE LIES STREWN WITH TEN BILLION CORPSES.

WE FACE THE DOOMSDAY MACHINE!!!

OKAY...IT SOUNDS BAD BUT I SPEAK FOR MYSELF, BARDA AND ORION: WE'LL FIGHT WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.

RIGHT NOW OUR BEST HOPE IS THAT THE WONDERWORLDERS HAVE WRESTLED THE ANNIHILATOR BACK INTO THE ETERNAL PIT...

AND IF NOT?

THEN HOPE IS LOST AND WE MUST CONFRONT COSMIC APOCALYRSE AS BEST WE CAN.

ORACLE, ALERT EVERY LEAGUER, PAST AND PRESENT.

EVERYONE.

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?

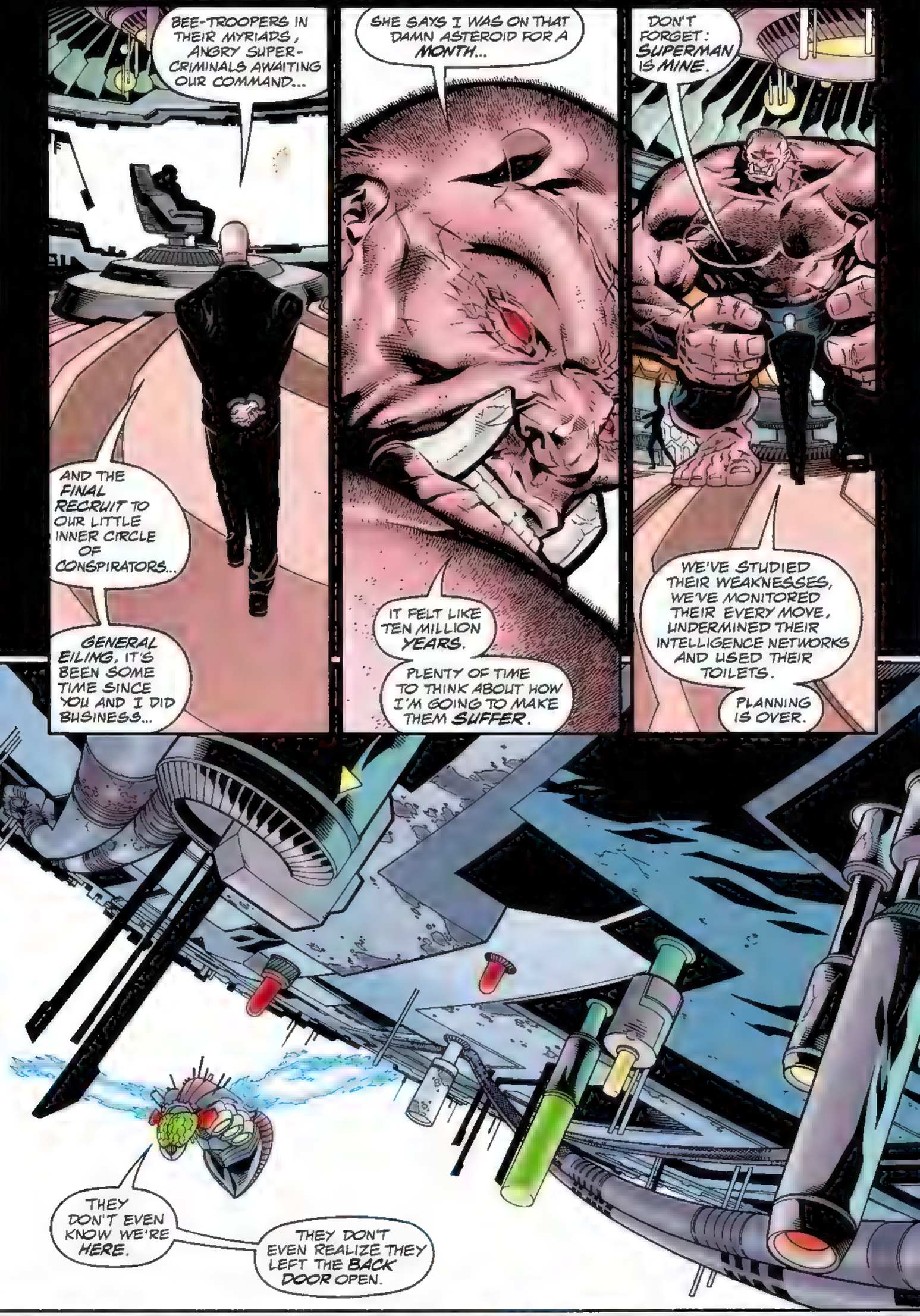
AAAOOOOO

TEZCATLIPOCA, GOD OF DARKNESS AND RUIN.
WOLF DEVOURING THE SUN.
THAT MIGHTY DRAGON SLIPS ITS CHAINS
SEVEN SEALS BROKEN.
VANITY, OREGON:
AZTEK:
...UNO, THE TIME DRAWS NEAR...
QUAUHYOTICA OCELOVOTICA.
HUMANITY'S TWILIGHT DRAWS NEAR...
AZTEK RUN
MITZAYANI IN ILHUICATL, TENTLAPANI IN TLALLI
NO TIME LEFT
RUN NOW.
IN MUZTLA, IN OUIPTLA
JLA ALERT!
JLA ALERT!
JLA ALERT!

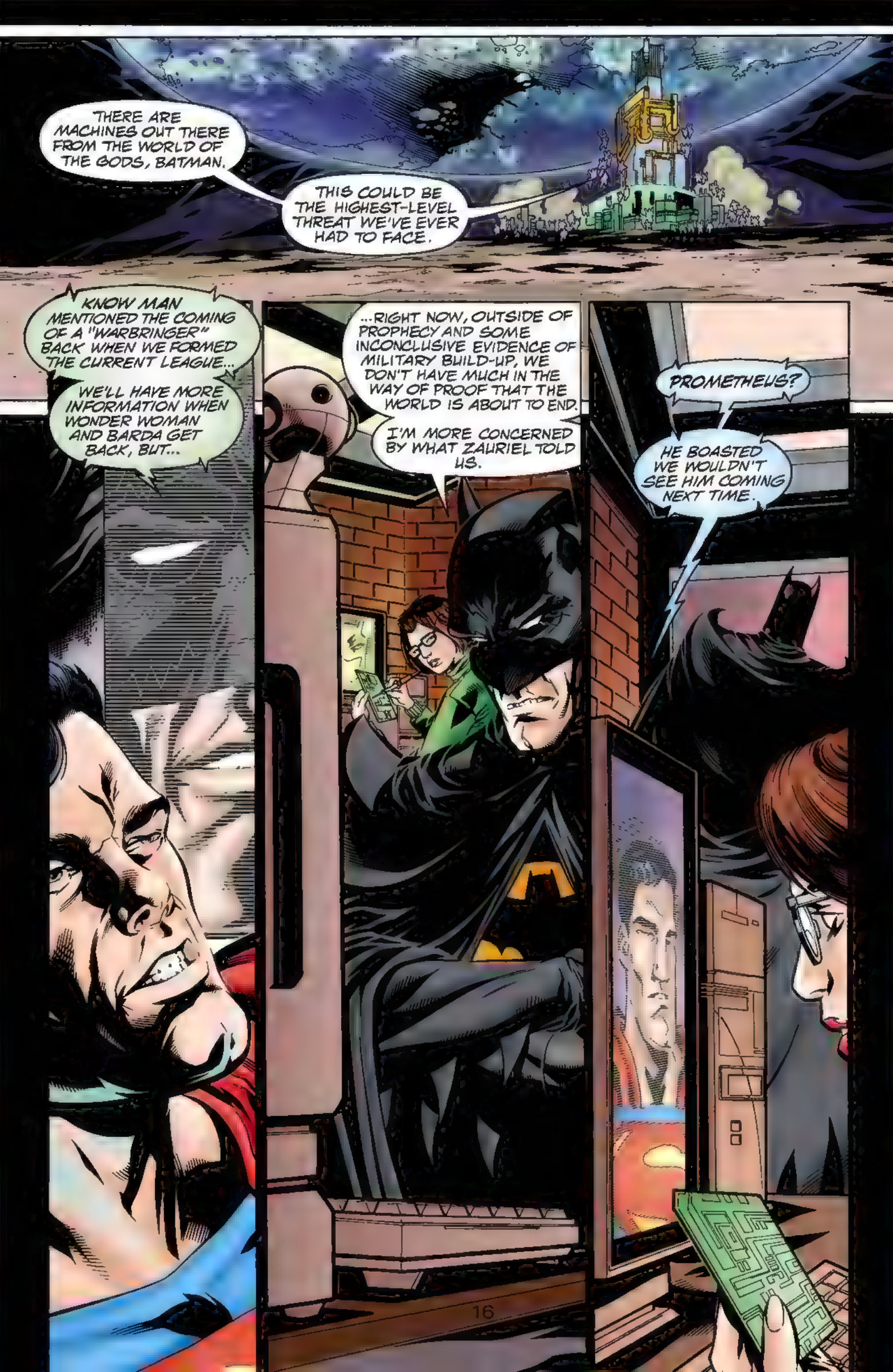
THE GHOST ZONE:
..THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO CALL IT ANYWAY.
I BUILT MY CROOKED HOUSE HERE, UNDER THE FOUNDATIONS OF REALITY, WHERE I CAN NIBBLE AWAY AT THE ROOTS...
YOU WROTE EXCRUCIATING POETRY AS AN ADOLESCENT, I CAN TELL. YOU WERE PUBLISHED BY YOUR SCHOOL MAGAZINE...
YEAH, I GUESS WE ARE PRETTY SIMILAR TYPES, LUTHOR.
SMART KIDS NOBODY EVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD...
MM.
YOU COULD MAKE YOURSELF VERY WEALTHY PATENTING SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT, PROMETHEUS.
MONEY ISN'T WHAT MOTIVATES ME. IF I WANT SOMETHING, I JUST TAKE IT.
I'M IN THIS FOR THE BUZZ.
BUT...I LEARNED MY LIMITATIONS LAST TIME I TACKLED THE JLA.
AND AFTER READING ORACLE'S FILES ON YOUR INJUSTICE GANG, IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU'D ONLY BEEN LET DOWN BY THE HELP...
I WAS NEVER FORMALLY CONNECTED WITH ANY "INJUSTICE GANG."
BUT I DO SEE YOUR POINT AND I DO HAVE SOME SCORES TO SETTLE...

EXACTLY. WE MAY ALL HAVE DIFFERENT AGENDAS, LUTHOR, WE MAY ALL TRY TO KILL ONE ANOTHER IN THE END, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN AGREE ON THE ONE THING WE FOUR HAVE IN COMMON...
A DESIRE TO DANCE ON THE GRAVES OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
WORKING WITH PROFESSIONALS HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE SO FAR, I MUST CONFESS...
SO WHAT'S THE JOKER LIKE?
FRIGHTENINGLY SICK IN THE HEAD.. BUT STRANGELY COMPELLING COMPANY..
AH, MY DEAR ZAZZALA!
WELCOME.
PLEASE TO ADDRESZSZ USZZ BY OUR TITLE, LUTHOR.
HER ROYAL GENETRIX, OMNI-CONSZCIOUSZ AND ALL-FULFILLING...
HER ETERNAL MAJESZZTY, THE QUEEN BEE.
WE ARE MOZZT IMPREZZED BY THE EFFICIENCZZY OF YOUR ATTACK PLAN.
WE AIM TO PLEASE, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS.
YOUR PEOPLE MUST HAVE EVOLVED FROM SOME PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE BUGS.
CONZZEPTZ OF RELATIVE "BEAUTY" ARE MEANINGLEZZ TO UZ, ASZZ ISZZ YOUR FLATTERY.
WE WILL BE GIVEN A PERCZENTAGE OF THE EARTH POPULATION TO SZZERVE ASZZ DRONE ZZZSLAVES, YESZZ?

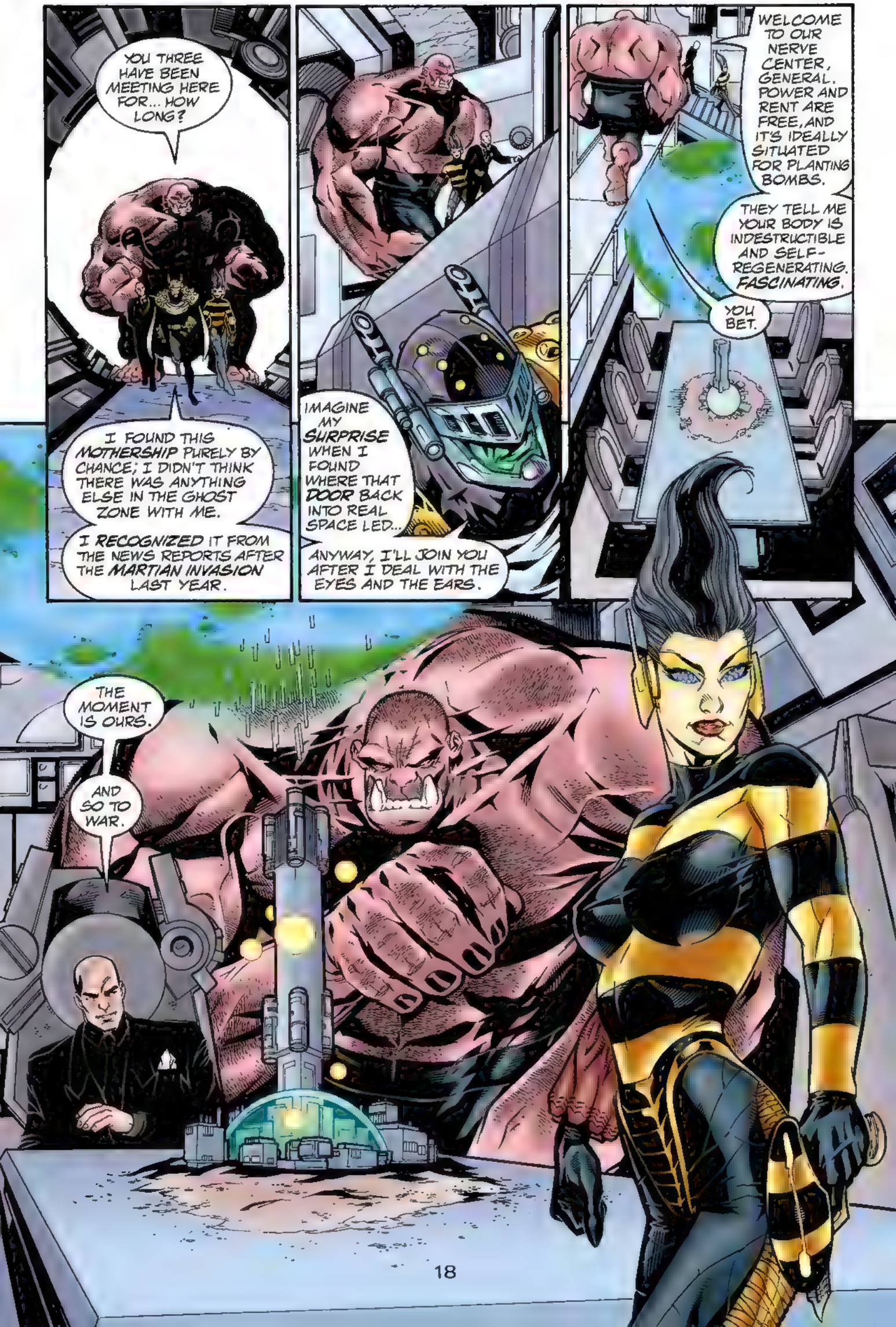
...THIS UNREGION OF INFINITELY COMPRESSED SZZPACE IS KNOWN BY COUNTLESSZZ NAMESZZ.
...STASSSIZZ ZZONE, STILL ZZZONE, PHANTOM ZONE...
ON KORLL, OUR HIVEWORLD, WE CALL IT THE HONEYCOMB.
IT FACILITATESZZ TRAVEL ACROSSZZ VASZZT INTER-SZZTELLAR DISZZTANCESZZ.
AND MUCH MORE.
YOUR ARMY WILL BE AT OUR DISPOSAL, AS AGREED?
WHERE I GO, MY SZZWARM FOLLOWSZZZ. THEY ARE GATHERING ON THE FRONTIERSZZZ OF THIS ZZZSOLAR ZZSYZZZSZZZTEM.
HA.
THIS IS LIKE THAT BIT IN "2001."

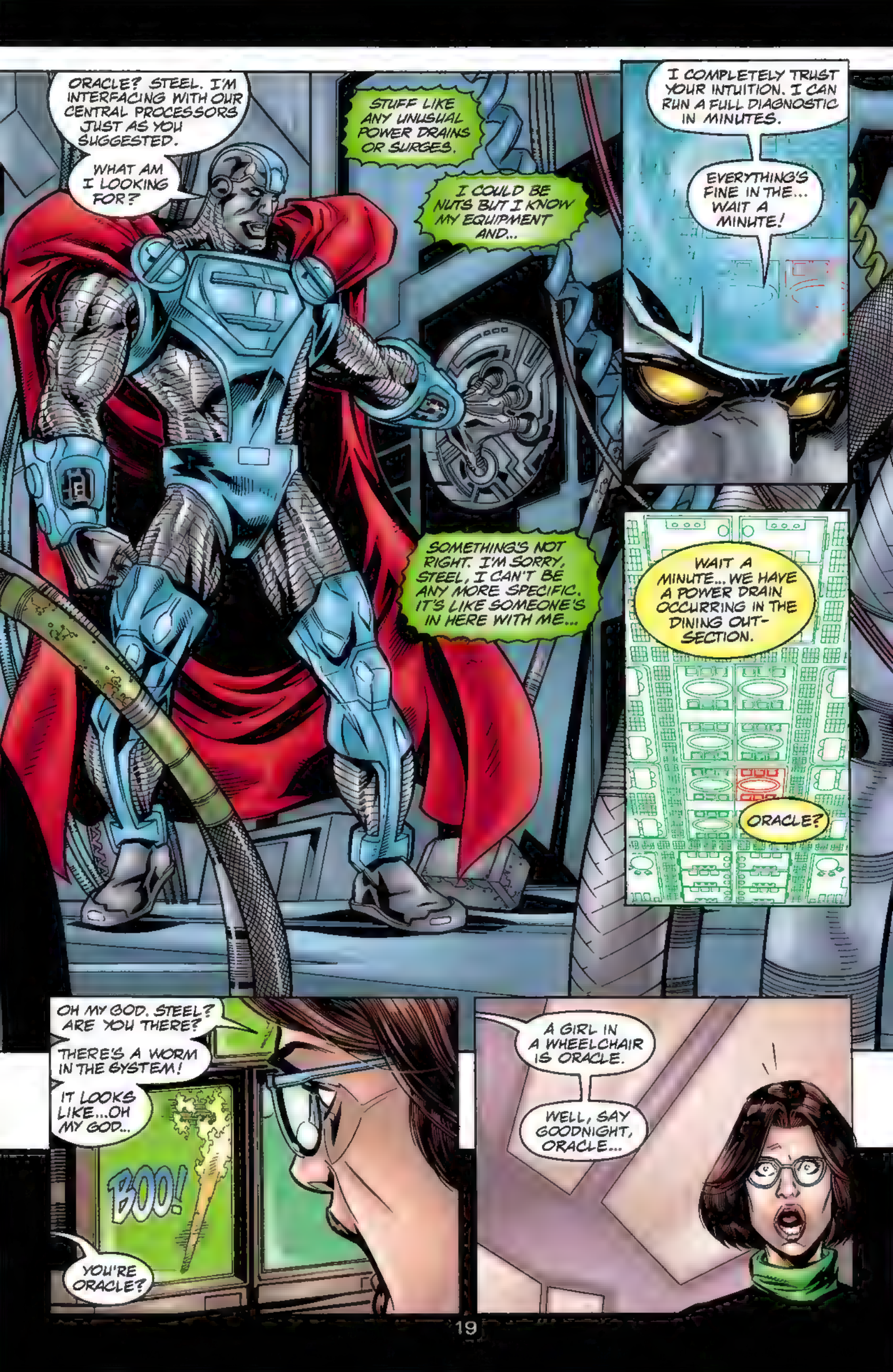

BEE-TROOPERS IN THEIR MYRIADS, ANGRY SUPER-CRIMINALS AWAITING OUR COMMAND...
AND THE FINAL RECRUIT TO OUR LITTLE INNER CIRCLE OF CONSPIRATORS...
GENERAL EILING, IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE YOU AND I DID BUSINESS...
SHE SAYS I WAS ON THAT DAMN ASTEROID FOR A MONTH...
IT FELT LIKE TEN MILLION YEARS.
PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO MAKE THEM SUFFER.
DON'T FORGET: SUPERMAN IS MINE.
WE'VE STUDIED THEIR WEAKNESSES, WE'VE MONITORED THEIR EVERY MOVE, UNDERMINED THEIR INTELLIGENCE NETWORKS AND USED THEIR TOILETS.
PLANNING IS OVER.
THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE HERE.
THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THEY LEFT THE BACK DOOR OPEN.

JLA WATCHTOWER
EAGLE-EYES!
PSST!
I KNOW I'M THE WRONG GUY TO BE POINTING THIS OUT, BUT THINGS ARE PRETTY SERIOUS, RIGHT?
THE HOSTS ARE GATHERING BEFORE THE PRESENCE TO PLAN THE ARCHITECTURE OF A NEW UNIVERSE, SHOULD THIS ONE FALL TO THE WARBRINGER.
WHAT'S THE SCOOP FROM HEAVEN?
IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN BY "SERIOUS"?
HEAVEN'S GIVEN UP ON US?
SO...THERE'S NO CHANCE OF SITTING THIS ONE OUT BACK HOME WITH A SIX-PACK AND THE SPORTS CHANNEL, IS THERE?
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP.
AND NEITHER WILL YOU WHEN IT COMES TO IT, PLASTIC MAN. I...
...GREAT GOD...
THE HELMET OF PROMETHEUS
GET ME BATMAN!


THERE ARE MACHINES OUT THERE FROM THE WORLD OF THE GODS, BATMAN.
THIS COULD BE THE HIGHEST-LEVEL THREAT WE'VE EVER HAD TO FACE.
KNOW MAN MENTIONED THE COMING OF A "WARBRINGER" BACK WHEN WE FORMED THE CURRENT LEAGUE...
WE'LL HAVE MORE INFORMATION WHEN WONDER WOMAN AND BARDA GET BACK, BUT...
...RIGHT NOW, OUTSIDE OF PROPHECY AND SOME INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF MILITARY BUILD-UP, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF PROOF THAT THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO END.
I'M MORE CONCERNED BY WHAT ZAURIEL TOLD US.
PROMETHEUS?
HE BOASTED WE WOULDN'T SEE HIM COMING NEXT TIME.

...I REPLACED PROMETHEUS' HELMET AFTER RUNNING SOME TESTS ON HIS TECHNOLOGY IN THE BATCAVE.
NOW IT'S GONE. THERE COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF EXPLANATIONS, BUT...
KEEP ME POSTED.
PROMETHEUS ALMOST ANNIHILATED THE LEAGUE SINGLE-HANDED; WE CAN'T TAKE THE RISK THAT THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE HE'S BACK.
OTHERWISE, DOOMSDAY MACHINES ARE YOUR FORTÉ, SUPERMAN.
AND IF WE CAN'T STOP THE END OF THE WORLD, WHO CAN?


YOU THREE HAVE BEEN MEETING HERE FOR... HOW LONG?
I FOUND THIS MOTHERSHIP PURELY BY CHANCE; I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING ELSE IN THE GHOST ZONE WITH ME.
I RECOGNIZED IT FROM THE NEWS REPORTS AFTER THE MARTIAN INVASION LAST YEAR.
IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I FOUND WHERE THAT DOOR BACK INTO REAL SPACE LED...
ANYWAY, I'LL JOIN YOU AFTER I DEAL WITH THE EYES AND THE EARS.
WELCOME TO OUR NERVE CENTER, GENERAL. POWER AND RENT ARE FREE, AND IT'S IDEALLY SITUATED FOR PLANTING BOMBS.
THEY TELL ME YOUR BODY IS INDESTRUCTIBLE AND SELF-REGENERATING. FASCINATING.
YOU BET.
THE MOMENT IS OURS.
AND SO TO WAR.


ORACLE? STEEL. I'M INTERFACING WITH OUR CENTRAL PROCESSORS JUST AS YOU SUGGESTED.
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
STUFF LIKE ANY UNUSUAL POWER DRAINS OR SURGES.
I COULD BE NUTS BUT I KNOW MY EQUIPMENT AND...
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. I'M SORRY, STEEL, I CAN'T BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC. IT'S LIKE SOMEONE'S IN HERE WITH ME...
I COMPLETELY TRUST YOUR INTUITION. I CAN RUN A FULL DIAGNOSTIC IN MINUTES.
EVERYTHING'S FINE IN THE... WAIT A MINUTE!
WAIT A MINUTE... WE HAVE A POWER DRAIN OCCURRING IN THE DINING OUT-SECTION.
ORACLE?
OH MY GOD. STEEL? ARE YOU THERE?
THERE'S A WORM IN THE SYSTEM!
IT LOOKS LIKE...OH MY GOD...
BOO!
YOU'RE ORACLE?
A GIRL IN A WHEELCHAIR IS ORACLE.
WELL, SAY GOODNIGHT, ORACLE...

WE'VE LOST ORACLE!
SHE SAYS THEY'RE HERE WITH US!
KILL ENGINEERING.
KILL THE ALARMSZZ.
AND KILL THE LIGHTS!
GIVE ME SOME DARKNESS!
GIVE ME SOME TERROR.
AAAUUUUOUOOOO
EMERGENCY ALERT!
THEY'RE HERE IN THE WATCHTOWER! THEY'VE BEEN LISTENING TO US THE WHOLE TIME!
WHAT'S HE MEAN THEY'RE...
THEY'VE BEEN RIGHT HERE ALL ALONG!
THE PENNY DROPS. TOO LATE.
ONE.

ADVANTAGE: USZZ.
FASSSH!
NAAHH!
LET'S TAKE THESE CIVILIANS TO HELL AND BACK.

GOOD EVENING, SUPERMAN.
I DID WARN YOU
...LUTHOR...
KLICK
MY GOD NO! NOT NOW, LUTHOR!!! WE'RE ALL IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR.
GOOBYE JLA.
AND TWO.
TO BE CONTINUED!

" [A] comic legend."
– ROLLING STONE

GRANT MORRISON

"[Grant Morrison is] comics's high shaman."
– WASHINGTON POST

"[Grant Morrison] is probably my favorite writer. That guy has more ideas in his pinky than most people do in a lifetime."
– GERARD WAY
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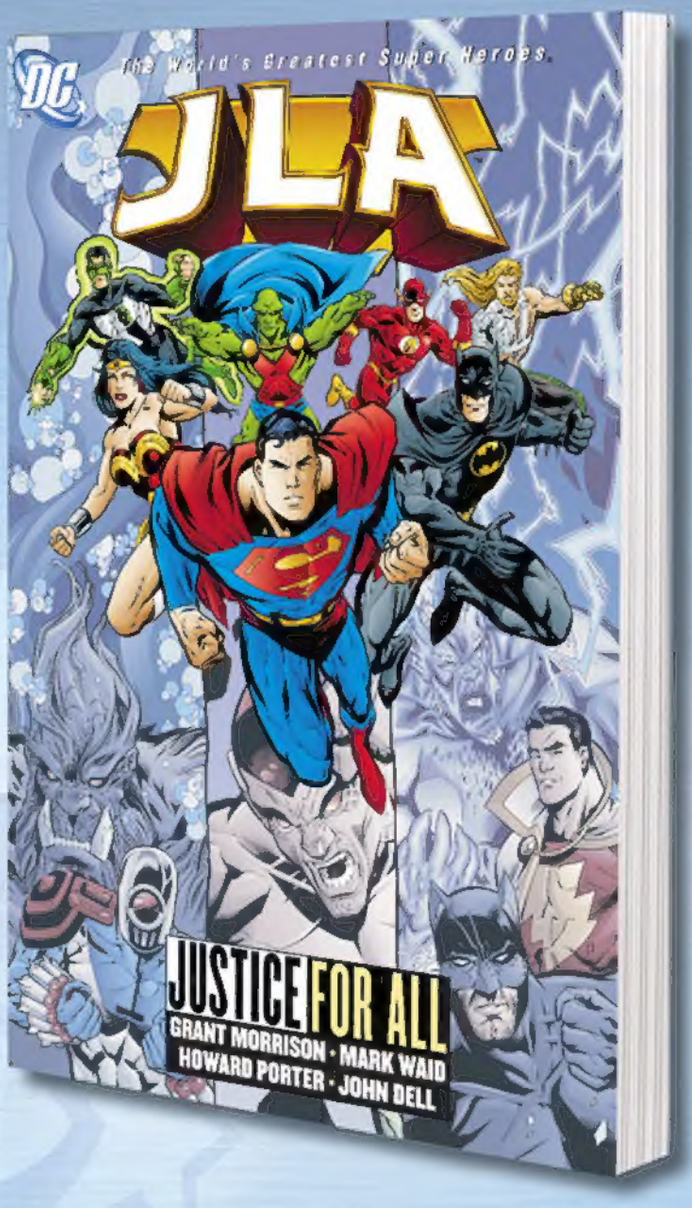

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